AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following two paragraphs at page 40, line 29 above.

In yet another related aspect, the invention provides a purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having aspartyl protease activity, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence characterized by: (a) a first tripeptide sequence DTG; (b) a second tripeptide sequence selected from the group consisting of DSG and DTG; and (c) about 100 to 300 amino acids separating the first and second tripeptide sequences, wherein the polypeptide cleaves the beta secretase cleavage site of amyloid protein precursor. In one embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 125, 2 or 4, whereas in another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence other than the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 125, 2 or 4. Similarly, the invention provides a purified polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide that cleaves the beta secretase cleavage site of amyloid protein precursor; wherein the polynucleotide includes a strand that hybridizes to one or more of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, and 198 under the following hybridization conditions: hybridization overnight at 42°C for 2.5 hours in 6 X SSC/0.1% SDS, followed by washing in 1.0 X SSC at 65°C, 0.1% SDS. In one embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 125, 2 or 4, whereas in another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence other than the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 125, 2 or 4. Likewise, the invention provides a purified polypeptide having aspartyl protease activity, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by polynucleotides as described in the preceding sentences. The invention also provides a vector or host cell comprising such polynucleotides, and a method of making the polypeptides using the vectors or host cells to recombinantly express the polypeptide.

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Hu-Asp variants may be obtained by mutation of native Hu-Asp-encoding nucleotide sequences, for example. A Hu-Asp variant, as referred to herein, is a polypeptide substantially homologous to a native Hu-Asp polypeptide but which has an amino acid sequence different from that of native Hu-Asp because of one or more deletions, insertions, or substitutions in the amino acid sequence. The variant amino acid or nucleotide sequence is preferably at least about 80% identical, more preferably at least about 90% identical, and most preferably at least about 95% identical, to a native Hu-Asp sequence. Thus, a variant